International commodity exchange

1959. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals to establish an International Commodity Exchange in India;

(b) what are the commodities that would be traded through this Exchange once this becomes operational and whether the farmer producer lobbies would have direct involvement in the process; and

(c) what are the recommendations of the Kabra Commission on this aspect and whether such similar recommendations aimed at boosting India's agro-exports would be taken up for early implementation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal for the setting up of International Commodity Exchange in Pepper has been received by the Central Government.

(c) The Kabra Committee which was appointed by the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribtion in June, 1993 to review the operations of the forward markets and to assess the role of the Forward Markets Commission, has since submitted its report to the Government. The Government has not taken any decision on the recommendations of the Report as it involves consultation with various Government Departments/Organisations.

Rising Prices of Pulses

1960. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of pulses have increased repidly during the last few weeks in the country;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir, The Wholesale price of pulses have shown a declining trand during the last few weeks from 4.2.95 to 4.3.95. A statement indicating the percentage variations in the Wholesale Price Indices for pulses for the same period is given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Although the prices of pulses are under check in recent weeks, the Government is closely monitoring the price levels and availability position of pulses in the country. As a measure towards augmenting the availability of pulses, the import of the same has been brought under OGL at 10% customs duty. Pulses are also being made available through the retail outlets of Cooperative Stores, Kendriya Bhandar and State Civil Supplies Corporations etc., although this is not an item under the Public Distribution System.

Statement

Percentage Variation in Wholesale Price Indices of Pulses as on 4-3-1995

(Base 1981-82=100)

Group/Item	Weight	Over 1 week 4.3.95 25.2.95	Over 2 weeks 4.3.95 18.2.95	Over 4 weeks 4.3.95 4.2.95
Pulses	1.09	−1.9	−2.8	−5.0